

# Palenquero

**Palenquero** (sometimes spelled **Palenkero**) or **Palenque** (Palenquero: *Lengua*) is a Spanish-based creole language spoken in Colombia. It's a mixture of Kikongo (a language spoken in central Africa RD Congo/R Congo/Angola/Ghana ) and Spanish. Palenquero is the only Spanish-based creole in Latin America<sup>[5]</sup>, if Papiamentu (which is often considered to be Portuguese-based) is excluded. The ethnic group which speaks this creole consisted of 6,637 people in 2018.<sup>[1]</sup> It is primarily spoken in the village of San Basilio de Palenque which is southeast of Cartagena, and in some neighbourhoods of Barranquilla.<sup>[6]</sup>

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## History

The village was formed by escaped slaves (Maroons) and Native Americans around 1604 under the leadership of Benkos Biohó. These slaves escaped from Cartagena, building their own communities to the south.<sup>[7]</sup>

Since many slaves had not been subjected to contact with people of European descent, the *palenqueros* spoke Creole languages constructed from the Spanish language and their own African ones.

Ten percent of the population under 25 years of age spoke Palenquero in 1998. It is more commonly spoken by the elderly. Its sole substrate is likely the Kikongo language, which is spoken in

Palenquero	
<b>Native to</b>	Colombia
<b>Region</b>	San Basilio de Palenque
<b>Ethnicity</b>	6,637 (2018) <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Native speakers</b>	2,788 (2005) <sup>[2]</sup>
<b>Language family</b>	Spanish Creole <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Palenquero</b></li></ul>
<b>Writing system</b>	Latin (Spanish alphabet)
Official status	
<b>Official language in</b>	The Colombian Constitution recognizes minority languages as "official in their territories." <sup>[3]</sup>
Language codes	
<b>ISO 639-3</b>	p1n
<b>Glottolog</b>	pale1260 ( <span>http://glottolog.org/resource/linguoid/id/pale1260</span> ) <sup>[4]</sup>
<b>Linguasphere</b>	51-AAC-bc

the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Angola. Palenquero words like "ngombe", which means cattle, are found in several Bantu languages.

## Grammar

Similar to several other creole languages, Palenquero grammar lacks inflectional morphology, meaning that nouns, adjectives, verbs and determiners are almost always invariant.<sup>[8]</sup>

## Gender

Grammatical gender is non-existent, and adjectives derived from Spanish default to the masculine form: *lengua africano* 'African language'.<sup>[8]</sup>

## Plurality

Plurality is marked with the particle *ma*. (for example: *ma posá* is "houses"). This particle is believed to derive from Kikongo, a Bantu language, and is the sole Kikongo-derived inflection present in Palenquero.<sup>[9]</sup> The younger speakers of Palenquero utilize *ma* for plurality more so than the speakers that came before them.

This particle is usually dropped with cardinal numbers greater than two: *ma ndo baka* "two cows" but *tresi año* "13 years".<sup>[8]</sup>

Palenquero pronouns<sup>[8]</sup>

Number	Person	Nominative	Source
Singular	1st	<i>í</i>	uncertain
		<i>yo</i>	<i>yo</i>
	2nd	<i>bo</i>	<i>vos</i>
	3rd	<i>ele</i>	<i>ele</i>
Plural	1st	<i>suto</i>	<i>nosotros</i>
	2nd	<i>utere</i>	<i>ustedes</i>
		<i>enu</i> (formerly archaic)	Bantu origin
	3rd	<i>ané</i>	Bantu origin

## Verbs

## Copula

There are four copulas in Palenquero: *e*, *ta*, *jue*, and *senda*. *E* roughly corresponds to *ser* in Spanish and is used for permanent states, and *ta* is similar to the Spanish *estar* in that it used for temporary states and locatives. *Jue* is used as a copula for nouns and *senda* is only found with predicative nouns and adjectives referring to permanent states.<sup>[10]</sup>



Examples:<sup>[11]</sup>

- *Bo é mamá mí nu* (You are not my mother)
- *Mujé mí **jue** negra i yo jue negro* (My wife is black and I am black)
- *I tan **sendá** dotó* (I will be a doctor)
- *Ese mujé **ta** ngolo* (That woman is fat)

## Vocabulary

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Some 300 words of African origin have been identified in Palenquero,<sup>[12]</sup> with many believed to originate in the Kikongo language. A comprehensive list and proposed etymologies are provided in Moñino and Schwegler's "Palenque, Cartagena y Afro-Caribe: historia y lengua" (2002). Many of the words that come from African origin, include plant, animal, insect and landscape names.<sup>[6]</sup> Another handful of words are believed to originate from Portuguese (*for example: mai 'mother'; ten 'has'; ele 'he/she'; bae 'go'*).

Sample words in Palenque

Palenque	Spanish	English
<i>burú</i>	<i>dinero</i>	money
<i>ngombe</i>	<i>ganado</i>	cattle
<i>ngubá</i>	<i>maní</i>	peanut, goober
<i>posá</i>	<i>casa</i> . Compare <i>posada</i>	house
<i>tambore</i>	<i>tambor</i>	drum
<i>mai</i>	<i>madre</i> . Compare <i>mãe</i> .	mother
<i>bumbilo</i>	<i>basura</i>	garbage
<i>chepa</i>	<i>ropa</i>	clothing
<i>chitiá</i>	<i>hablar</i>	to speak
<i>ngaina</i>	<i>gallina</i>	chicken
<i>tabáko</i>	<i>tabaco</i>	tobacco
<i>hemano</i>	<i>hermano</i>	brother
<i>onde</i>	<i>donde</i>	where
<i>pueta</i>	<i>puerta</i>	door
<i>ngolo</i>	<i>gordo</i>	fat
<i>flo</i>	<i>flor</i>	flower
<i>moná</i>	<i>niño</i>	child
<i>ceddo</i>	<i>cerdo</i>	pig
<i>cateyano</i>	<i>castellano</i>	Spanish
<i>foratero</i>	<i>forastero</i>	outsider
<i>kusa</i>	<i>cosa</i>	thing, stuff
<i>cuagro</i>	<i>barrio</i>	neighborhood

## Sample

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## The Lord's Prayer in Palenquero

Palenquero	Spanish
<p><i>Tatá suto lo ke ta riba sielo, santifikaro sendá nombre sí, miní a reino sí,</i></p> <p><i>asé ño boluntá sí, aí tiela kumo a sielo. Nda suto agué pan ri to ma ría, peddona ma fata suto, asina kumo suto a se peddoná, lo ke se fatá suto. Nu rejá sujo kaí andí tentación nu, librá suto ri má. Amén.</i></p>	<p><i>Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo, santificado sea tu nombre. Venga a nosotros tu Reino.</i></p> <p><i>Hágase tu voluntad, así en la tierra como en el cielo. Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día. perdona nuestras ofensas, como también nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden. no nos dejes caer en la tentación, y líbranos del mal. Amén.</i></p>

## See also

- [Bozal Spanish](#)

## References

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## External links

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